Inadequacy of Staff in the National Commission for Women

245. DR. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is inadequate staff in the National Commission for Women for the proper implementation of various schemes and programmes for the welfare of women;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the necessary steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) to (c) A total number of 28 posts were sanctioned at the time of setting up of the National Commission for Women in 1992. The Commission has now proposed creation of additional posts to cope with the increase in workload which is under consideration of the Government.

Fertilizer subsidy in Respect of Farmers of Punjab

246. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of fertilizer subsidy released for the State of Punjab for small and marginal farmers during the year 1996-97;

(b) whether the entire amount of subsidy has been utilized by the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons for non-utilization of the aforesaid amount?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) There is no specific scheme under which fertiliser subsidy is released for the State of Punjab for small and marginal farmers during 1996-97.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Implementation of Horticulture/ Floriculture Schemes in Gujarat

247. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes implemented in the fields of horticulture, fruits, vegetables, fisheries and flouriculture etc. in Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) the amount provided by Government for these schemes separately therefor;

(c) whether new techniques have been provided/developed in these fields by the National Agriculture Research Council or any other such research institute; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to extend the information to the concerned people and to encourage them?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) A statement indicating the name of schemes and amount provided to the Government of Gujarat during the last three years is attached. (See below).

(c) and (d) Technologies have been developed/evolved for production of fruits, medicinal & aromatic plants, etc. High-yielding selections in datepalm and banana have been made for further multiplication and distribution to farmers to improve productivity and quality. Improved varieties of fruits like ber, pomegranate, datepalm, aonla etc. have been introduced and popularised. Technology for raising fruit plantations on drylands under semi-arid conditions of Gujarat have been evolved and demonstrated by the Central Horticulture Experiment Station at Godhra alongwith techniques to develop degraded lands through horti-pastoral systems suitable for these soils. A large number of improved varieties of medicinal plants have been evolved along with package of practices suitable to Gujarat.

2. Use of drip irrigation for horticultural crops has been standardised